

Memphis was simply OUTSTANDING!

It was great to return to Memphis after having been not been able to make the show for several years due to scheduling conflicts. I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to visit face-to-face with many of my collector friends, swap jokes and simply enjoy sharing some time together.

Everytime I've attended I've driven from Houston. While parts of the drive can be boring at times, I always enjoy passing through the rolling woodlands of western Arkansas before getting to Little Rock. From there, it's literally a flat, straight road the rest of the way. I was fortunate that Art Paradis was in Houston on business, so we made arrangements and he rode with me, taking his turn behind the wheel and helped pass the time by keeping the conversation fun and lively! We also checked-out every car and van we passed, hoping to spot Benny Bolin and his family in-route from Fort Worth so we might ride along together.

When we arrived I went straight to the exhibit hall, as I had 3 different exhibits to setup using 15 cases. I certainly owe my friend Martin Delger a big THANK-YOU, for his help in accommodating a last-minute change for me to help squeeze in another case. Martin works hard for a month prior to the show in laying-out all the exhibit cases based upon the number of cases for each exhibit as well as grouping topics together. It's a big job, which he's been going for many, many years. So if you ever get a chance to meet or visit with Martin, be sure to thank him for all his work in helping paper money collectors put-on the many exhibits at Memphis.

Like everyone else, I made the rounds to all the dealer tables to see what they had to offer. Of course the quality was quite varied, and certainly with the growth in prices for fractional material over the last few years there were a lot more dealers offering notes. Many of the long-time fractional dealers and collectors were there. Hosting dealer tables included Tom Denly, Judy Kagin, Rob Kravitz, Dave Berg, Len and Jean Glazer, Martin Gengerke, Lyn Knight, James Polis and Bruce Hagen (who cataloged the Ford/Boyd Postage/Fractional collection) to name a few..

And when one wasn't walking the floor, most of the fractional collectors hung-out at Rob Kravitz's table visiting with others such as Mike and Vic Marchioni, Art Paradis, Louis DeSantis, Bill Brandimore, John Wilson, Jerry Deutsch, Chuck Armstrong, David Treter among the many others.

Postage/Fractional currency prices remained strong as demonstrated by the prices on the floor as well as the strong bids for the lots offered in the Lyn Knight auction. But just as important, the fun and comradery continues to flourish among those of us that collect these little pieces of history.

I encourage you to watch for the dates for next year's show in Memphis and make plans to attend, as well as put on an exhibit for everyone to enjoy.

Fractionally Yours,

FCCB
c/o Jerry Fochtman
2818 Mountain Green Trail
Kingwood, TX 77345
(281) 361-8948
jfochtman@bradmark.com

Memphis 2008...

The Memphis International Paper Money Show (IPMS) is always a memorable experience. The bourse, as usual, was interesting and new material was available to view. I was surprised at the number of dealers who now routinely carry an inventory of fractional notes. Unfortunately, at least for me, most of the material is slabbed. I still prefer to closely inspect notes by touch, sight and smell. The bourse was brisk for many dealers. Hugh Shull, who offers a wide array of CSA, Colonial, Obsolete and Fractional notes, always seemed to have a crowd of people at his table. Tom Denly had his large offering of notes, including a good selection of fractional. Don Kelly had a large offering of slabbed Grant/Shermans, and FCCB founding member Martin Gengerke was selling copies of his national bank note census along with having a few interesting pieces of fractional. Judy Kagin was there representing Kagin's, which included some nice fractional. And of course Rob Kravitz's table served as home-base to almost all the fractional specialists that attended the show. I'm sure I've missed other tables that offered fractional material, but unfortunately I didn't get around to all the tables on the floor.

For fractional aficionados, the exhibits this year were truly exceptional. There were 7 exhibits that were based on fractional currency, the most exhibits on fractional in many years. Benny Bolin, Jerry Fochtman and Jerry Deutsch received the outstanding display awards and Bill Brandimore provided an excellent exhibit on the fifth issue notes.

As usual, we held our annual meeting during the Memphis show. There were 27 members in attendance as well as a couple curious on-lookers. Glenn Jordi, from PMG, gave a presentation on Third Party grading. Although I'm sure he didn't convince everyone in the room that third-party grading was a good for the hobby, there was a good exchange of information and insight into their approach and how they view the grading of currency. One key motion that was approved was to offer Lifetime Memberships for FCCB at a cost of \$200. Immediately after the meeting 5 people signed-up.

As always, the social aspect of Memphis was enjoyable. Jerry Fochtman, Art Paradis, Rob Kravitz and I took a little trip to Corky's Barbeque for a fun dinner. Getting there was also fun, for the bellman gave us directions indicating the restaurant was a short 4 blocks away, but 24 blocks later we found it! On the return, Jerry was able to navigate the 24 blocks without having to come to a complete stop and any traffic light...and there were lots of lights!

Of special note (no pun intended) was the phenomenal job that Jerry Fochtman did in producing FCCB's 25th Anniversary sheets of fractional look-alike notes. If you were not in attendance at Memphis, you should receive your sheet with the current newsletter. Please add your thanks to mine for the time and effort that Jerry put into producing the special souvenir sheets.

I hope to see some of you at FUN in January!

Mike



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Realized \$21,850 against a presale estimate of \$5,000-up.



LOT 12025: Fr. 1296 25c Third Issue
PCGS Very Choice New 64PPQ.
From the Thomas M. Flynn Collection.
Realized \$4,312 against a presale estimate of \$3,000-up.



LOT: 12039: Fr. 1338 50c Third Issue Spinner PCGS
Choice New 63PPQ.
From the Thomas M. Flynn Collection.
Realized \$2,300 against a presale estimate of \$800-up.



LOT 12139: Superb First
Issue Die Proof Set. Milton
1P5F.1g, 1P10F.1e, 1P25F.1f
and 1P50F.1e. Realized \$7,188
against a presale estimate of
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This auction subject to a 15% buyer's premium.

Unique Spinner Letter

By

John and Nancy Wilson

We were fortunate to recently acquire this early Spinner document, which at one time was a part of the Jack Vorhies collection, and wanted to share it with our fractional collector friends. (Editor's note: Perhaps a member would like to provide an interpretation of the letter.)

Nathan C. Pk
Nov 4 1811

Dear Sir—

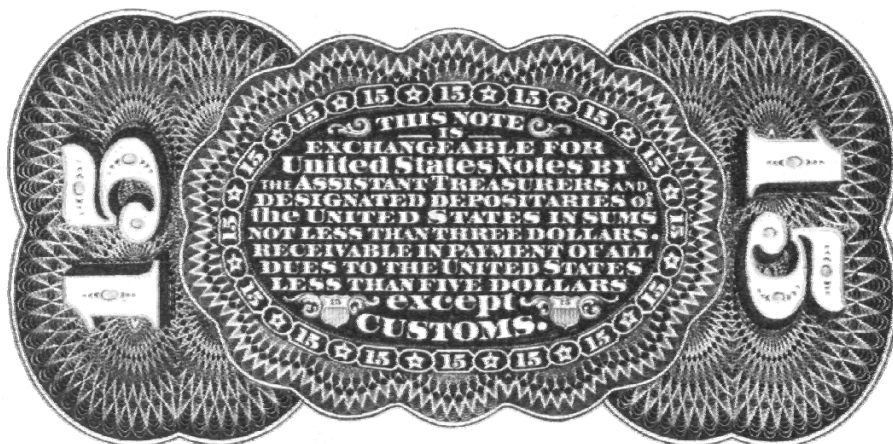
The Bills you rec^d.
from the "Blackleg" are all genuine
There is no particular mark about
the Counterfeit Auburn 5⁰ that I can point
out to you by which to detect them —
Generally however the paper is lighter, the
signature of the Cashier a bad imitation
the Vignette rather coarse & the filling
up, particularly the numbering is not
well done — I have paid
you apt. \$1. for Exp^s Yours truly
J. C. Spinner Esq^r Nath^l Hummels



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Robert J. Kravitz,

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I attend many of the major shows and auctions to satisfy my customer's collecting needs.

The following is a small sampling of some prize notes that I have placed into customer's collections:

Marchioni Fr. 1248 Choice CU

Fr. 1299 Very Choice CU

Gengerke Fr. 1330 Gem CU

Fr. 1336 Choice CU

O'Mara Fr. 1339 NM Specimen Reverse AU

Fr. 1340 Superb Gem CU

Fr. 1348 Choice CU

Fr. 1368 Gem CU

O'Mara Fr. 1371 Choice AU

James Polis

4501 Connecticut Avenue, NW Suite 306

Washington, D.C. 20008

(202) 363 – 6650

Jpolis7935@aol.com

"Did You Know..."

By

Robert J. Kravitz

P.O. Box 6099
Chesterfield, MO 63006
314-878-3564

In the 4th issue, there were 179,097,600 Large Seal 10c notes issued and 170,312,600 Small Seal 10c notes produced. However, for the 15c note, only 27,240,040 of the Large Seal notes and only 8,121,400 of the Small Seal variety were produced.

Member's Trading Post

Looking for Graphics of Satirical Notes and other Rare Fractional Items for Historical Collection Effort. Jerry Fochtman jfochtman@bradmark.com 713/513-9309	Researcher/Collector interested in ALL fractionals with inverted or mirrored plate numbers. If you have one (for sale or research) please e-mail riconio@yahoo.com or call 818/591-2326. Thanks – Rick Melamed.	Wanted: FR1374 (Lincoln) Counterfeits notes, scans,clippings, info, etc. for upcoming Lincoln currency book. Fred Reed (FCCB #55) Freed3@airmail.net P.O.B 118162 Carrollton, TX 75011
Want lists serviced and auction representation with over 40 years of Fractional experience Mike Marchioni Marchion@ETSU.EDU 423/439-5362	Wanted To Buy: 3 Cent regular or specimen with pedigree from Milt Freidberg Gary Rosner orgmr@3centnickel.com 310/292-6947	

Current FCCB Members are welcome to submit requests for one (1) Trading Post notices for each issue. Simply e-mail your request to jfochtman@bradmark.com)



A Dealer's View of Memphis 2008...

By

Rob Kravitz

Driving to Memphis same as last year, I missed the exit again(!) somehow. Last year I wrote the following:

"Who moved Memphis?!"

Going down to Memphis, Trying to make a buck,
Missed my exit and then I got stuck.

Stopped to asked a kid, who said I'd better beware.
Asked him "Who Moved Memphis?", I needed to get there.

He looked me over, then said this is not the right 'hood,
So I told him I need to get to Memphis if I could!

I started to shiver, when all of a sudden I saw the river.
I'd made it to Memphis, I knew I would.

Now who moved the hotel, looking around in despair...
I thought it would be, right over there!

Without much zeal, I drove down Beale.
Made a right on Front, I then found the Marriott

Looks like I need to dust-off that ol' axe (guitar for some), and work on a melody...

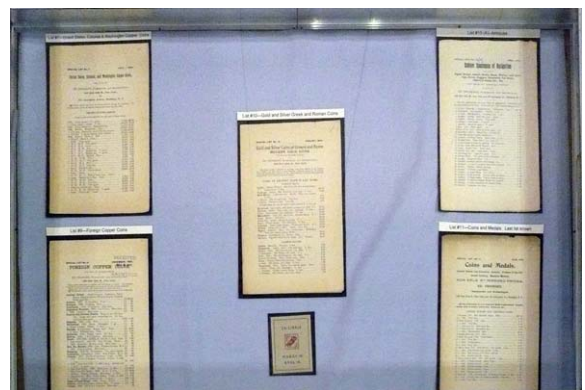
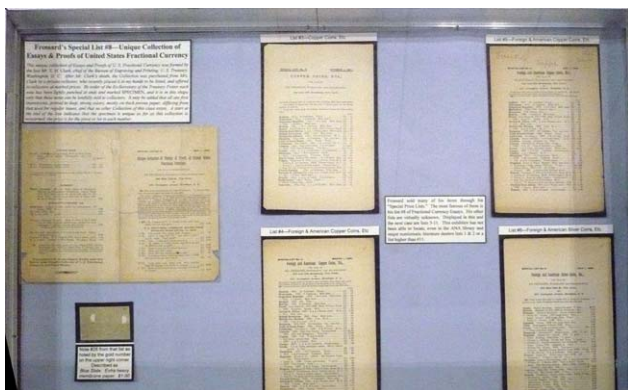
First, I have to say something about the exhibits. Not only were there more Fractional Currency exhibits then in many years, they were ALL outstanding! We had seven exhibits just on Fractional Currency. Boy, I'm glad I was not a judge this year. And for the first time in a long time, a fractional exhibit was awarded "Best of Show" by SPMC. Jerry Fochtman's exhibit on "Laban Heath's Counterfeit Detector Microscopes". How great is that!

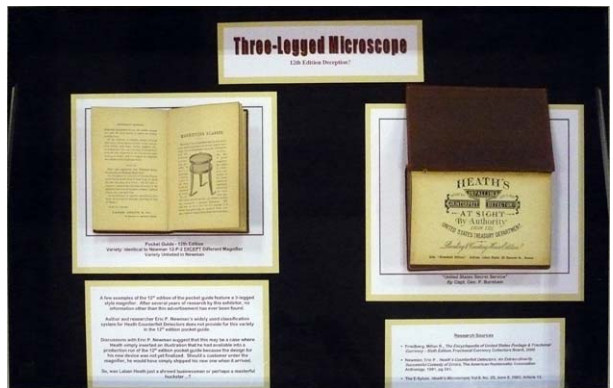
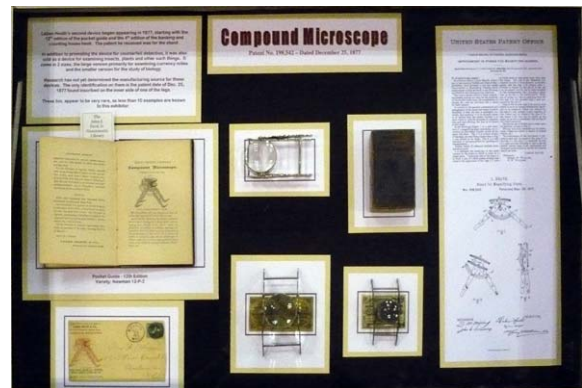
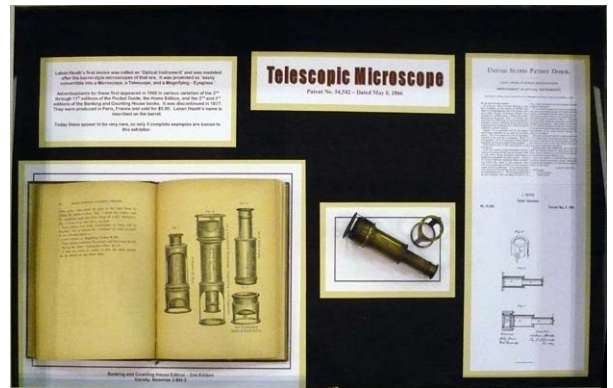
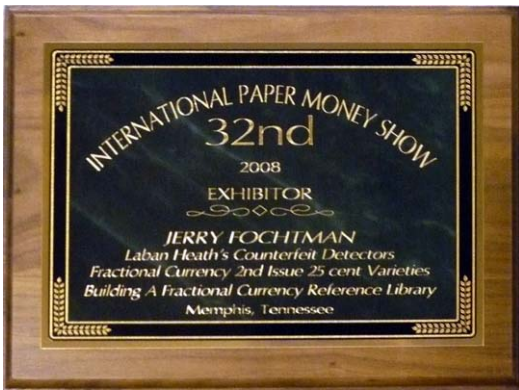
Overall, it was a very good show. Fractional currency is not only live and well, but stronger than the large size type. I sold just about as much to other dealers as I did to collectors. Some were dealers who last year were not stocking fractionals but are now. Sold some very RARE notes, FR1272spwm Uncut Pair of fronts and backs, an Unc FR-1357 and an UNC FR1344, just to name a few. It was great to meet people in person, that I've talked to on the phone for years. The food and all the people was simply Great! I hope that more club members will look at including Memphis in their travel plans for next year!

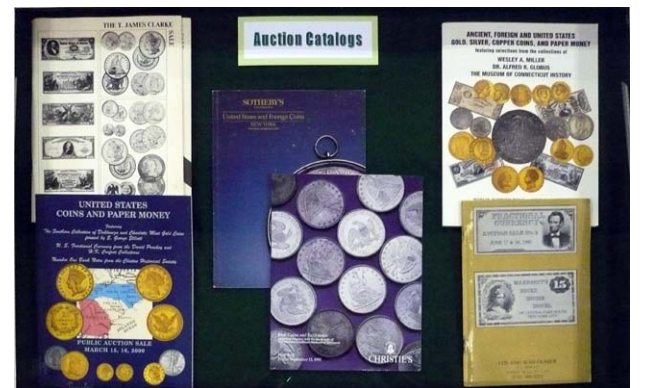
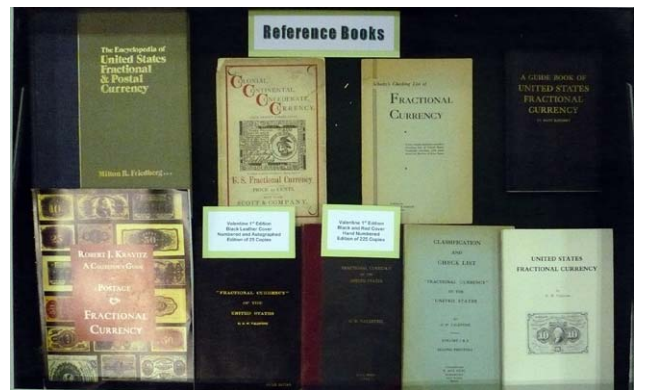
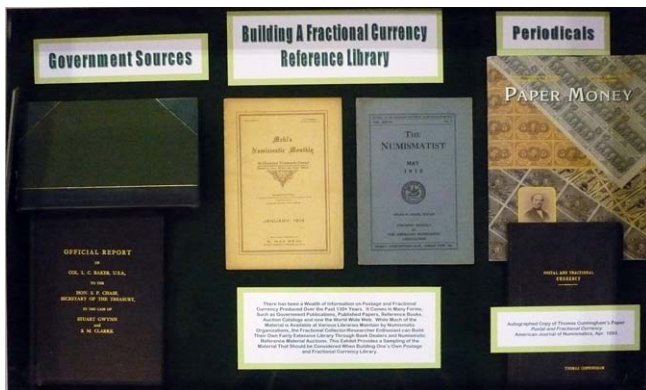


Postage/Fractional Currency Exhibits at Memphis











Fractional Exhibit Award Winners



(L to R) Mike Marchioni, FCCB President, Benny Bolin, 1st Place, Jerry Fochtman, 2nd Place, Jerry K. Deutsch, 3rd Place, Martin Delger, Memphis Exhibit Chairman, Jean and Len Glazer, Exhibitor Awards